

Houma Regional Job Vacancy Survey

Second Quarter 2005



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR * [WWW.LAWORKS.NET](http://www.laworks.net)

Employers' Responses to the Open-Ended Question: “In trying to fill this position, what is the greatest difficulty you have faced, if any?”		
DIFFICULTY	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	PERCENT OF RESPONSES
We have been unable to find applicants with the specific experience, training, skills and/or certification that we are seeking.	25	24.27%
No reported difficulty in filling vacancy.	17	16.50%
We have been unable to find qualified applicants and/or applicants with experience.	15	14.56%
Finding people that want to work. Not enough applications submitted.	9	8.74%
There is a shortage of people in the occupation.	8	7.77%
Some aspect of the job is undesirable to applicants (such as shifts, weekends, nights, schedule changes, heavy lifting, etc.)	8	7.77%
Some other difficulty mentioned.	8	7.77%
Qualified applicants will not work for the compensation package we offer.	5	4.85%
The work ethic of people, once they are hired, is unacceptable. This included comments on social skills, appearance, attitude, maturity, and dependability.	3	2.91%
Turnover- keeping people once they have been hired is the biggest problem.	3	2.91%
Finding people to pass a drug test or background check (such as driving record or credit check).	2	1.94%
Total Responding to the Open-Ended Question	103	100.00%

These answers are not necessarily verbatim responses, but a compilation of similar responses.

What is the difference between industry group and occupational group?

An industry is a group of establishments, categorized according to the goods or services they provide. For purposes of this study, many of the industry sectors are grouped together to provide summary information. For instance, the industry sectors of Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities are combined to form a summary industry group called Trade, Transportation & Utilities.

An occupational group is a group of workers, categorized according to the skills they have and what they do on the job. For example, Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations is one occupational group that includes many different types of occupations such as Dentists, Optometrists, Therapists, Veterinarians, Diagnostic related Technologists and Technicians, and Medical Records and Health Information Technicians. These are just a few of the occupations you can find in this occupational group.

Each industry contains a variety of occupations, and many occupations may be found in every industry. Using Healthcare Services (part of the summary industry group of Education & Health Services) as an example, you may find the following occupations in a hospital: doctors, therapists, office managers, medical records clerks, housekeepers, nurses, food preparation workers, and maintenance workers.

Methodology

During the second quarter 2005, a Job Vacancy Survey was conducted based on a random sample of Louisiana establishments covered by Louisiana’s unemployment insurance tax laws. The sample was stratified by firm size, regional labor market area, and industry. The total sample size was 8,544 with an overall response rate of 56%. This survey was conducted prior to Hurricane Katrina. The Second Quarter 2005 Job Vacancy Survey reports for the state and eight regional labor market areas (RLMAs) can be found on the LDOL Web site: www.LAWORKS.net/qm_JVS.asp

THE PURPOSE OF A JOB VACANCY SURVEY is to identify the number and types of jobs available in specific industries and regions of the state. The results of the survey assist educational units, employment and training providers, and local workforce councils in responding to industry needs. The Job Vacancy Survey data provides a unique snapshot of the conditions in a given region and/or occupational labor market.

There were 2,249 job vacancies in Regional Labor Market Area 3 (Houma Region) during the 2nd quarter of 2005 resulting in a vacancy rate of 2.60 percent. This means that for every 100 jobs, approximately 2 1/2 jobs were vacant at the time of the survey. The largest number of job vacancies (536) was found in the occupational group of Transportation and Material Moving Occupations while the largest vacancy rate was in Legal Occupations at 15.66 percent.

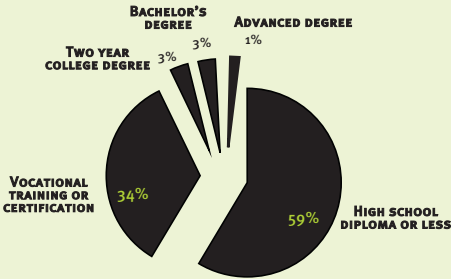
In the table below, Houma Regional Job Vacancies by Industry Group, Trade, Transportation and Utilities had the largest number of job vacancies

(521) while the highest vacancy rate was in Public Administration (5.9 percent). Overall, Houma area employers were seeking experienced workers. Only 24 percent had jobs that required no experience. When looking at the education required by the job vacancies reported, 41 percent required training past high school while 59 percent of the vacancies required a high school diploma or less. The largest percentage of job vacancies (30 percent) paid \$5.15 to \$7.00 per hour. The job vacancies that paid more than \$10.00 an hour made up 34 percent of the reported vacancies.

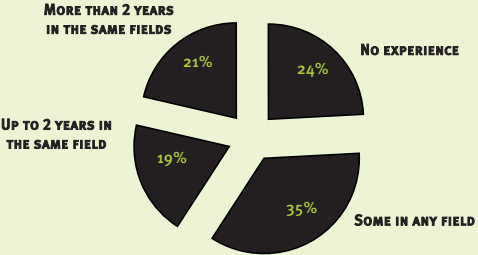
This survey included all ownership classifications, private ownership, federal, state, and local government. Of those responding with job vacancies, 84 percent were classified as private and 16 percent were classified as government statewide.

A list of difficulties that employers had in filling the positions can be found on the back page. The difficulty reported most often was being unable to find applicants with specific experience, training, skills and/or certifications.

Houma Regional Educational Requirements of Job Vacancies



Houma Regional Job Experience of Job Vacancies



Houma Regional Job Vacancies by Industry Group

Industry Group	Number of Vacancies	Industry Employment*	Vacancy Rate	Median Hourly Wage
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	521	21,940	2.4%	\$7.30
Manufacturing	419	9,257	4.5%	\$9.88
Professional & Business Services	225	8,450	2.7%	\$10.50
Leisure & Hospitality	222	7,089	3.1%	\$5.85
Education & Health Services	214	19,060	1.1%	\$11.50
Public Administration	182	3,074	5.9%	\$8.04
Financial Activities	148	5,331	2.8%	\$25.00
Construction	130	4,856	2.7%	\$7.50
Other Services	111	2,081	5.3%	\$5.15
Natural Resources & Mining	66	6,783	1.0%	NA
Information	12	900	1.3%	\$15.50
Total, All Industry Groups ⁽¹⁾	2,249	88,857	2.5%	\$9.31

* 2nd Quarter 2005 - Industry Data

(1) Due to unclassified data, column may not add to total.

HOUMA REGIONAL JOB VACANCY SURVEY



SECOND QUARTER 2005

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	NUMBER OF VACANCIES	EMPLOYMENT IN OCCUPATION	PERCENT REQUIRING AT LEAST SOME WORK EXPERIENCE	PERCENT REQUIRING MORE THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE	MEDIAN NUMBER OF DAYS POSITION WAS VACANT	2ND QUARTER VACANCY RATE 2005 OVERALL*	2ND QUARTER VACANCY RATE 2005 PRIVATE SECTOR	2ND QUARTER VACANCY RATE 2004 PRIVATE SECTOR
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	13	840	100.0%	79.0%	\$39.23	71	1.52%	1.52%	1.10%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	0	400	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations	6	2,290	100.0%	NA	\$6.32	7	0.25%	0.16%	0.00%
Business & Financial Operations Occupations	3	1,820	100.0%	100.0%	\$19.00	14	0.16%	0.16%	0.25%
Community and Social Services Occupations	16	930	14.4%	44.4%	\$8.16	7	1.68%	1.43%	0.41%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	3	250	NA	100.0%	NA	14	1.20%	1.20%	0.00%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	126	7,490	99.0%	NA	\$11.50	18	1.68%	1.65%	2.98%
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	15	6,320	100.0%	100.0%	NA	30	0.24%	0.00%	0.49%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	0	270	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.00%	0.00%	59.58%
Food Preparation & Serving-Related Occupations	302	6,030	62.8%	NA	\$5.50	14	5.00%	5.00%	0.56%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	57	4,890	39.0%	100.0%	\$15.00	60	1.16%	0.93%	0.20%
Healthcare Support Occupations	46	1,850	NA	100.0%	\$6.61	105	2.49%	2.49%	3.63%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	83	5,170	81.9%	74.6%	\$8.38	21	1.60%	1.58%	0.46%
Legal Occupations	34	220	100.0%	NA	\$19.54	25	15.66%	15.66%	0.00%
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	0	280	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Management Occupations	22	3,990	73.8%	100.0%	\$11.54	105	0.55%	0.55%	0.48%
Non-Classifiable Occupations	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	235	12,260	78.6%	46.5%	\$7.69	14	1.91%	1.63%	1.94%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	43	1,340	42.2%	42.2%	\$7.50	19	3.23%	1.36%	19.17%
Production Occupations	446	8,540	60.5%	11.8%	\$9.25	28	5.22%	5.19%	3.94%
Protective Service Occupations	11	1,340	23.5%	NA	\$5.88	7	0.79%	0.61%	0.00%
Sales and Related Occupations	254	8,680	81.5%	58.5%	\$8.00	25	2.93%	2.93%	2.86%
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	536	11,400	90.0%	55.9%	\$9.48	42	4.71%	3.40%	2.77%
Total	2,249	86,600	75.4%	47.83%	\$8.98	30	2.60%	2.31%	2.40%

*Overall includes the private sector as well as federal, state, and local government entities in Louisiana. NOTE: Due to rounding, column may not add to total.

TOP 10 JOB OPENINGS
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer (230 openings)
Captains, Mates & Pilots of Water Vessels (199 openings)
Waiters and Waitresses (157 openings)
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers (155 openings)
Retail Salespersons (144 openings)
Meat, Poultry & Fish Cutters & Trimmers (109 openings)
Carpenters (78 openings)
First Line Supervisors/Managers of Food Preparation & Serving Workers (65 openings)
Insurance Sales Agents (64 openings)
Structural Metal Fabricators & Fitters (54 openings)

HOUMA REGIONAL MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE

